

REMARKS

Applicant has filed herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) in response to the office action of December 19, 2002. It is hereby requested that this amendment be entered and considered responsive to the office action. Specifically, Claims 1-18 have been cancelled and new Claims 19-36 have been added. The new claims more clearly describe the present invention in a manner that distinguishes the invention from the systems described in the prior art cited in the most recent and earlier office actions. The new claims indicate that the present invention is directed to detecting and enabling the active elimination of unauthorized usage or storage of individuals' private information, as well as the storage of inaccurate private information.

The prior art of Moskowitz is directed to enabling parties to verify the security or trustworthiness of other parties with which they are interacting. The present invention enables individuals to monitor the status of their private information as used or stored by others. Moskowitz apparently teaches a system to enable remote private electronic transactions to take place by establishing the trustworthiness of the parties involved in the transaction. Moskowitz does not teach a system to enable a user to detect the use/misuse of otherwise publicly available private information, as well as to detect the inaccuracy of such information. Moskowitz also fails to teach a system to allow the originator and owner of private information to rectify any misuse or inaccuracy in the context of the public availability of the information. In addition to providing those capabilities, the present invention also enables detection of the source or location of the website, database, or the like containing inaccurate information or misusing accurate or inaccurate private information. The prior art of record fails to teach such functionality.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments made to the claims and the arguments presented herein, Applicant respectfully suggests that the presently pending claims clearly describe the present invention and distinguish it over the cited prior art. It is therefore requested that this application be allowed to pass to issuance.

Applicant notes that with the cancellation of all prior pending claims and the addition of 17 new claims, two of which are independent, no additional filing fee is required.

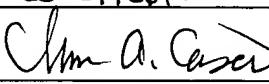
Respectfully submitted,



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